

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/965,889
Attorney Docket No. Q66258

REMARKS

Claims 14-17, 19 and 23-25 are pending in the application and are rejected.

Specifically, claims 14-17, 19 and 23-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,128,475 to Wicks et al. (hereinafter "Wicks") in view of European Patent Publication No. 0602840 to Haas (hereinafter "Haas") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,987,336 to Sudo et al. (hereinafter "Sudo") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,480,725 to Cassidy et al. (hereinafter "Cassidy").

The present application claims priority from Japanese Patent Application No. 332417/1997, which was filed on November 17, 1997. Cassidy was filed on June 1, 1998, after the filing date of the Japanese priority document for the present application. Applicant is submitting herewith a Certified English Translation of the JP 332417/1997 priority document, thereby removing Cassidy as a prior art reference. Accordingly, claims 14-17, 19 and 23-25 are now believed to be allowable.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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